

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application. Claims 1-25, 30, 31, and 35-37 were rejected. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, and 24 have been amended. No claims have been added or canceled. Thus, claims 1-25, 30, 31 and 35-37 are pending.

Claims 1 and 13 were objected to for containing informalities recited within the claims. Applicants have accordingly amended claims 1 and 13 to re cite “local” instead of “locate” (See claims 1 and 13). In light of the above amendments, Applicants submit that the objections have been overcome. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections.

Claims 1 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 13, and associated dependent claims, to recite “private local network search request” and “private local network.” In light of the above amendments, Applicants submit that the limitations within claims 1 and 13 contain proper antecedent basis for the limitations in those claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under § 112.

Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 12-19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 30, 31 and 35-37 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,370,527 of Singhal (hereinafter “Singhal”). For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants submit that claims 1-7, 9, 10, 12-19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 30, 31 and 35-37 are not anticipated by Singhal.

Amended claim 1 recites:

A method comprising:

generating, automatically with an electronic device without user intervention, a private local network search request in response to an original search request, the private local network search request to cause a search to be performed on electronic documents stored by a device that is part of a private local network, the private local network search request making the documents searchable by electronic devices belonging to an organization corresponding to the electronic device and not searchable by remote electronic devices not corresponding to the organization, and wherein one or more of the documents are saved in the absence of an explicit command by a user to save the electronic documents, but saved in response to another user specified function associated with the electronic documents, the search of the electronic documents on the private local network to be performed according to search parameters of the original search request and without making available the electronic documents to search requests of remote electronic devices outside the private local network;

generating, automatically with the electronic device without having to wait for a search result of the private local network search request from the private local network and in addition to the private local network search request, an external network search request in response to the original search request, the external network search request to cause a search to be performed on electronic documents available from devices that are part of an external public network via a network portal of an external network according to the search parameters of the original search request; and

generating a single search report at the electronic device based on the search results of the private local network search request and the public external network search request.

Thus, Applicants claim in response to a single original search request, generating two search requests. One search request is a search of a non-private external network. The second search request is generated to search a private local network and specific forms of content stored within the private local network. Included in the content searched during the private local network search is internal documents captured by a private local network without user intervention. Furthermore, the internal private documents are searched by the private local network search request without the private documents being released to the network portals of external networks, and thus not

releasing the private local content to search services outside the network. The results of the local network search and the external network search are then presented as a single search report.

Singhal describes a meta-search engine device for searching distributed network environments (Singhal, Abstract; Column 2, lines 18-34). The meta-search engine sends search requests to a plurality of search engines and compiles the results (Singhal, Column 2, lines 35-58). The search is performed on storage devices connected to a network; or a combination of networks, where the storage devices “store information and files that may be of interest to a user” (Singhal, Column 3, lines 30-40; Column 4, lines 45-57). The search engine devices return results, which are correlated with each other, ranked, and displayed to a user (Singhal, Column 6, lines 1-28). Applicants respectfully submit that Singhal fails to describe or suggest each and every feature as claimed in independent claim 1.

The Applicants claim, in part, a private local network search where the private local network contents includes “one or more of the documents are saved in the absence of an explicit command by a user to save the electronic documents, but saved in response to another user specified function associated with the electronic documents” (See claim 1). In one embodiment, the Applicants refer to such documents as “unconsciously captured documents,” or those documents that do not require explicit actions of a user to save documents (*See, for example*, Specification, page 9, line 19 to page 10, line 4).

The Examiner submits that Singhal teaches searching unconsciously captured documents (Final Office Action, page 4 *citing* Singhal, column 6, lines 38-40). In the passage cited by the Examiner, Singhal recites “In step 620, the controller 200 receives

the results of each of the search engine devices 140-160 and stores them in memory.”

The passage of Singhal, however, merely describes receiving search results. Receiving search results fails to describe the nature of the documents searched, let alone that the search results includes content consisting of “one or more of the documents are saved in the absence of an explicit command by a user to save the electronic documents, but saved in response to another user specified function associated with the electronic documents.”

The Applicants further claim, in part, generating both a public and private network search “without making available the electronic documents to search requests of remote electronic devices outside the private local network” (See claim 1). As such, private documents are not released to public search portals by a search request.

The Examiner submits that Singhal teaches searching documents “without making available the electronic documents to search requests of remote electronic device outside the local network (inherent: intranets are networks not ordinarily or generally available to the public.)” (Final Office Action, page 5). The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Singhal fails to describe meta-search engine device 130 distinguishing between different network types during a network search. Rather, Singhal recites:

A meta-search engine device 130 is connected to the network 120. The meta-search engine device 130 allows a user to enter, via their user device 100, a search query which is then used in each of the plurality of search engine devices 140-160 to search for information and files on the storage devices 140-160 that contain the search query terms, or terms related to the search query terms. (Singhal, column 3, lines 48-52).

Thus, when a network search of both an intranet and a public network is performed by the meta-search engine, the meta-search engine returns search results that include content from the intranet. Furthermore, Singhal provides no limitations as to the

“user device” that may initiate a search request. In fact, Singhal describes that a search request is explicitly provided to any user device with access to a network (Singhal, column 3, line 8-14). As such, any public user device with network access that initiates the meta-search of Singhal, even when the network consists of a combination of networks, would have access to the contents of an intranet. Thus, Singhal fails to describe generating both a public and private network search “without making available the electronic documents to search requests of remote electronic devices outside the private local network.”

Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, the Applicants submit that Singhal fails to disclose the elements claimed by the Applicants, and fails to anticipate claim 1.

Claims 2-7, 9, 10, 12 depend from claim 1. Claims 14-19, 21, 22 and 24 depend from claim 13. Claims 30, 31 and 35-37 depend from claim 25. Because dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicants submit that claims 2-7, 9, 10, 12, 14-19, 21, 22, 24, 30, 31 and 35-37 are not anticipated by Singhal for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claims 11 and 23 were rejected as being unpatentable over Singhal in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,913,040 of Rakavy, et al (hereinafter “Rakavy”). For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants submit that neither Singhal nor Rakavy, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claims 11 and 23.

Claim 11 depends from claim 1 and claim 23 depends from claim 13. Rakavy is cited to teach a search report having an advertisement selected based on the search results (Final Office Action, page 8, mailed July 18, 2006). However, whether or not Rakavy

discloses the selection of advertisements, Rakavy does not cure the deficiencies of Singhal set forth above. Therefore, neither Singhal nor Rakavy, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claims 11 and 23.

Claims 8 and 20 were rejected as being unpatentable over Singhal in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,263,332 of Nasr, et al (hereinafter "Nasr"). For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants submit that neither Singhal nor Nasr, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claims 8 and 20.

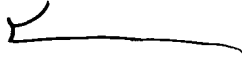
Claim 8 depends from claim 1 and claim 20 depends from claim 13. Nasr is cited to teach a search report as either HTML or XML (Final Office Action, page 9, mailed July 18, 2006). However, whether or not Nasr discloses HTML and/or XML search results, Nasr does not cure the deficiencies of Singhal set forth above. Therefore, no combination of Singhal and Nasr can teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claims 8 and 20.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 1-25, 30, 31 and 35-37 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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